

The 266th meeting of the Rhode Island Student Loan Authority was held on **Thursday, March 26, 2009** in the 1st floor Conference Room, 560 Jefferson Boulevard, Warwick, Rhode Island.

Board Members in attendance:

Dr. Anthony Santoro
Dr. Robert McKenna
Mr. John Howell
Dr. William Croasdale
Ms. Patti Doyle
Mr. Xay Khamsyvoravong, designee for General Treasurer Caprio

Others in attendance:

Mr. Charles P. Kelley, Executive Director, RISLA
Mr. Noel Simpson, Chief Financial Officer, RISLA
Mr. Joseph Palumbo, General Counsel
Mr. Dave Souto, Deputy Director, RISLA
Ms. Gail Mance-Rios, Deputy Director, RIHEAA
Ms. Lindie Thibodeau, RISLA
Ms. Delia Rodriguez, RISLA
Ms. Gail Walker, RISLA
Mr. Greg Silva, RIHEAA
Mr. Chad Pastorius, RISLA

The meeting opened by Dr. Santoro at 9:30AM.

Upon a motion duly made by Dr. Croasdale and seconded by Mr. Howell, it was unanimously

VOTED : to accept the minutes from the November 25, 2008 and January 8, 2009 board meetings.

Chairman's Report:

No report.

Executive Director's Report:

Mr. Kelley noted that an email was received from Chris Jenkins thanking Bill Bianchi and Gail Walker for their presentation. Ms. Walker handed out a sheet with information about past and upcoming sessions on financial literacy and spring exit sessions.

Finance Subcommittee Update

Dr. Croasdale indicated that the finance subcommittee has recommended that RISLA submit a bid for the PLUS loan auction.

Mr. Palumbo presented a form of resolution on this.

Upon a motion duly made by Dr. Croasdale and seconded by Ms. Doyle, it was unanimously

VOTED: to adopt the resolution and submit the qualifying paperwork by the April 1st deadline.

Financial Literacy Update

Mr. Kelley pointed out the RISLA newsletter, in draft form, which will be going out in April.

Mr. Kelley also mentioned an article from the Warwick Beacon which speaks to the JumpStart event held in February at the Roger Williams Casino. Mr. Kelley noted that The LifeSmarts program event was held at the Statehouse a few weeks ago.

Ms. Thibodeau provided an update on the College Planning Center. She noted that so far this year 4839 individuals have been served as compared to 4303 at this time last year, which is a 12.5% increase. Ms. Thibodeau also indicated that most people are being referred by their high school guidance counselors. She noted that as of March 10th, 25% of individuals have been seen in the new Bristol office (more than 500).

Mr. Kelley indicated that he has received confirmation from the Woonsocket/Cumberland Boys Club that it will host, at no cost, a College Planning Center satellite office.

Financial Markets Update

Mr. Kelley stated that the capital markets are currently in difficult shape. He noted that State Street is performing very well, while Dexia is not performing as well and RISLA may have to look at replacing Dexia.

Mr. Kelley indicated that the primary objective right now is to get geared up for a fixed rate bond issue to finance RIFEL loans.

Dr. Santoro asked if interest rates are going to rise. Mr. Kelley replied that they will eventually go up.

Upon a motion duly made by Dr. McKenna and seconded by Mr. Howell, it was unanimously

VOTED: to go into executive session pursuant to RIGL §42-46-5(a)(1) to discuss a matter involving the investment of public funds.

The open session was reconvened at 10:25 A.M.

Chairman Santoro announced that the following votes were taken in the closed session:

- (1) It was unanimously voted to select two underwriters, Banc of America and Janey Montgomery.
- (2) It was also voted to authorize RISLA to sell loans to the federal government that are currently in the participation program.

Federal Update

Mr. Kelley stated that RISLA is currently working with our Congressional delegations on the FFELP program. Mr. Kelley noted that one of the biggest proponents of the FFELP program in Rhode Island is New England Tech. Dr. McKenna asked if there has been any response from Senator Reed's office. Mr. Kelley stated that he has met with the Senator's office.

The Board discussed an editorial which was featured in the Providence Journal on March 22, 2009. Mr. Kelley stated that the article did not mention local organizations such as RIHEAA and RISLA or talk about the many benefits these organizations provide. Dr. Santoro did not feel that RISLA should not respond to this article as its contents were not negative. Ms. Doyle suggested that RISLA tell its story independently in an OpEd piece which should contain 3-5 key messages. Mr. Kelley stated that Mr. Simpson & Mr. Kerwin will put together an OpED piece for the Providence Journal. Ms. Doyle suggested using an e-newsletter, website, and ads to the community and that this should move quickly. Dr. McKenna stated that former Governor Garrahy should be notified and given an overview of what is going on (he is currently in Florida). Mr. Kelley stated that he would do that.

Strategic Planning Session

The name of this project will be changed from Strategic Planning to Self Study. Dr. Santoro felt that RISLA should answer the questions--- What if there is only direct lending? Can RISLA survive on private loans alone? Mr. Howell stated that he would also like the RIHEAA relationship, the CPC, and WaytoGo to be addressed. Mr. Kelley indicated that he would try to get this done by late April/early May.

Upon a motion duly made by Dr. McKenna and seconded by Ms. Doyle, it was unanimously

VOTED: to adjourn.

Adjournment occurred at 10:49 P.M.

John Howell
Secretary